

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims should read as follows:

1-36. (Canceled)

37. (New) A method of treating a coating of a stent comprising:  
precoating the stent with a swellable carrier coating;  
temporarily swelling the carrier coating with a supercritical fluid devoid of therapeutic prior to providing a supercritical fluid carrying a therapeutic;  
causing the stent, with the swollen carrier coating, to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of causing the stent to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic includes placing the stent in a chamber and injecting the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic into the chamber.

39. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein at least one supercritical fluid is supercritical carbon dioxide.

40. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the therapeutic is paclitaxel.

41. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein after the carrier coating is no longer exposed to a supercritical fluid, the carrier coating reverts back to substantially its original size.

42. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the stent comprises a metal.

43. (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
increasing the rate in which supercritical fluid enters the chamber containing the stent by applying a vacuum force to the chamber.

44. (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising:

increasing the rate in which supercritical fluid enters the chamber containing the stent by applying a vacuum force to the chamber.

45. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of causing the stent to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic includes spraying the supercritical fluid and therapeutic at the stent.

46. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of causing the stent to be in contact with the supercritical fluid carrying the therapeutic includes exposing the stent to a bath of supercritical fluid and therapeutic.

47. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the therapeutic substantially dissolves in the supercritical fluid.

48. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the therapeutic is colloidally suspended in the supercritical fluid.

49. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the supercritical fluid is supercritical carbon dioxide and the therapeutic is paclitaxel.

50. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein supercritical fluid is sprayed through a nozzle.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 further comprising:  
manipulating a nozzle to change the direction in which supercritical fluid is directed towards the stent.

52. (New) A method of treating a coating of a medical device comprising:  
coating the medical device;  
interfacing a therapeutic with a first supercritical fluid; and,

temporarily swelling the coating on the medical device with a second supercritical fluid devoid of coating and therapeutic prior to exposing the coating on the coated medical device to the first supercritical fluid, which has been interfaced with the therapeutic.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein exposing the coating to the first supercritical fluid includes spraying the supercritical fluid at the medical device.

54. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein exposing the coating to the first supercritical fluid includes flooding a coating chamber with the first supercritical fluid after the therapeutic has been interfaced with the supercritical fluid.

55. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein:  
temporarily swelling the coating includes exposing the coating to a bath of supercritical fluid.

56. (New) The method of claim 52 where the first supercritical fluid is the same as the second supercritical fluid.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 where the supercritical fluids comprise carbon dioxide.

58. (New) A method of treating a coating of a stent comprising:  
precoating the stent with a swellable carrier coating;  
providing a supercritical fluid carrying a therapeutic;  
causing the stent, precoated with the swellable carrier coating, to be in contact with the supercritical fluid and therapeutic, thereby causing the swellable carrier coating to swell and to absorb therapeutic;  
collecting the supercritical fluid after transferring the therapeutic from the supercritical fluid to the stent; and  
removing residual therapeutic from the supercritical fluid after collecting the supercritical fluid.